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lavigorating to the Pale and Sickly Gues Did Sers?, Other Remedies Won't Cura The worst cases, no m are cured by the w



station," he went on, "and we have

questioned them carefully. It seems

The inspector took a piece of pa-

"Craig." Lenora said firmly.

"Under these circumstances," the

house watched, and I propose that to

Craig," Sanford Quest agreed.

a haunt of criminals."

still lingered in his face.

it's not a bad neighborhood."

The professor repeated the address

to himself softly. For a moment he

stood quite still. His manner showed

signs of growing anxiety. He seemed

to be trying to remember something.

they moved towards the door, "sug-

rests to me. I must confess-we are

"We are on our way there now, str.

-that is if the young ladies are will-

We've been waiting here with our

noing to see the house inspector?"

ing!" he added, glancing at Laura.

"The name," he admitted finally, as

Idence is situated?"

Piles Manufacturing Company. SYNOPSIS.

Sanford Quest, master criminalizate of the world, finity that in hermaline to hustive Mardengal, the markers of Land
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SEVENTH INSTALLMENT

THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY.

CHAPTER XVI.

Something in the nature of a conference was proceeding in Quest's The professor was there, seated in the most comfortable easychair, smoking without relish one of his host's best cigars, watching with pervous impatience the closed door. Laura and Lenors were scated at the table, dressed for the street. They had the air of being prepared for some excursion. Quest, realizing the pridessor's highly strung state, had left lim alone for a few moments and was studying a map of New York The latter, however, was too ill at ease to keep silent for long.

"Our friend French," he remarked, gave you no clue, I suppose, as to the direction in which his investigations are leading hira?"

Quest glanced up from the map. "None at all. I know, however, that the house in which Lenora here was confined is being watched closely."

The professor glanced across toward the table before which Lenora was seated.

'It seems strange," he continued, "that the young lady should have so little to tell us about her incarcera-

Lenora shivered for a moment. "What could there be to tell," she asked, "except that it was all horrible, and that I felt things-felt dangerswhich I couldn't describe."

The professor gave vent to an impatient little exclamation.

"I am not speaking for fancies," he persisted. "You had food brought to you, for instance. Could you never see the hand which placed it inside your room? Could you bear nothing of the footsteps of the person who brought let Could you not even surmise whether it were a man or a

Lenora answered him with an evident effort. She had barely, as yet, recovered from the shock of those awful hours.

"The person who brought me the food," she said, "came at night-never in the daytime. I never heard anything. The most I ever saw was once -I happened to be looking toward the door and I saw & pair of bandsnothing more-setting down a tray. I shricked and called out. I think that I almost fainted. When I found courage enough to look, there was nothing there but the tray upon the floor."

The professor eighed as he turned GWEY.

"It is evident, I am afraid," he said. "that Miss Lenora's evidence will belp no one. As an expert in these affairs, Mr Quest, does it not seem to you that her imprisonment was just a liftle purposeless" There seems to have been no attempt to harm ber in any way.

Whoever took the risk of abdusting her." Quest pointed out grimly, did it for a purpose. That purpose would probably have been doveloped in course of time. However we look at it, Mr. Ashleigh, there was only one man who must have been anxious to get her out of the way, and that man was Cruig. Here comes our friend French. I have an idea that he has something to tell us."

They glanced expectantly towards the door as French entered. The inspector, who was looking very spruce and well brushed, wished them a genlast and longest upon Laura, who seemed, however, unconscious of his presence.

"Now, then, French," Quest began, French." as he returned his greeting. "take a cigar, make yourself comfortable in that chair and let us have your news. As you see, we have obeyed orders. We are all ready to follow you anywhere."

"It won't be to the end of the world, anyway," the inspector remarked, as he lit his cigar. "I am going to propose a little excursion down Gayson

"Back to that house?" Lepora exclaimed with a grimace.

The inspector nodded. "We have had those boys at the cora. "the inspector here's setting up as a ludge of millinery Lenors turned and looked at them

both with an air of blank astobishment. The inspector was a little embarrasard.

"No need to give me away like that." he muttered, as they reached the half. "Now then, ladies and gentlemen, if you are ready."

They took their places in the automobile and drove off. As they neared the vicinity of Gayson avenue the professor began to show signs of renewed uneasiness. When they drew up at last outside the house he gave little exclamation. His face was grave, almost baggard.

"Mr Quest," he said, "Inspector French, I deeply regret that I have a statement to make."

They both turned quickly toward him. The inspector smiled in a con-Mdential manner at Laura. It was obvious that he knew what was com-

"Some years ago," the professor continued. "I bought this house and made a present of it to-

"To whom?" Quest asked quickly, To my servant Crair," the professor admitted with a grean.

Lenora gave a little cry. She furned

triumphantly towards the inspector. 'All recollection as to its locality had escaped me," the professor conable language, this is what it comes tinued sterowfully. "I remember that to: A man of medium beight, rather it was on the anniversary of his havthin, pale, and after running a ing been with me for some filteen short distance he not his hand to years that I decided to show him his beart, as though out of breath. some substantial mark of my appre-One of the boys thought his nose was ciation. I knew that he was looking a little booked, and they both refor a domicile for his father and marked upon the fact that although mother, who are since both dead. he shouted after them, he used wo and I requested a house agent to send swear words, but simply tried to inme in a list of suitable residences. duce them to stop. This description This, alas! was the one I purchased." suggest anything to you, gentlemen? Quest glanced around the place.

"I think," he said, "that the profes-"It is a very accurate discription of sor's statement now removes any doubt as to Craig's guilt. You are The professor looked troubled, also sure the house has been closely a little perplexed. He said nothing, watched, inspector?"

"Since I received certain information," French replied, "I have had inspector continued, "I have had the half a dozen of my best men in the vicinity. I can assure you that no now search it systematically. It is one has entered or left it during the | dangerous" very possible that something may last twenty-four hours."

transpire to help us. Of course, my They made their way to the planta men went through it roughly when steps and entered by the front door. we brought Miss Lenora away, but The house was an ordinary framethat wasn't anything of a search to work one of moderate size, in poor recount, if the place really has become pair, and showing signs of great neg-The rooms were barely fur-What about the ownership of the nished and their first cursory search house?" Quest asked, as he took up revealed no traces of habitation. There was still the broken skylight The inspector needed approvingly. in the room which Lenors had occu-"I am making a few inquiries in pled, and the bed upon which she had that direction," he announced. "I exslept was still crumpled. French, pect to have something to report very who had been tapping the walls downstairs, called to them. They trooped The professor stood drawing on down into the hall. The inspector his gloves. The vague look of trouble was standing before what appeared to be an ordinary panel.

Tell me again," he begged, "the "Look here," he said, glancing out name of the avenue in which this resof the corner of his eye to be sure that Laura was there, "let me show "Gayson avenue," the inspector reyou what I have just discovered." plied. "It's a bit out of the way, but

He felt with his thumb for a spring, , devil's house." In a moment or two a portion of the wall, about two feet in extent, slowly revolved, disclosing a small cupboard fitted with a telephone instru-

A telephone," the inspector remarked, pointing to it. "in an unoccupled house and a concealed cupard. What do you think of that? The professor shook his head.

Don't ask me," he grouned. French took the receiver from its

rest and called up the exchange. hats on for the last half hour," Laura announced. "Kindly tell me what is walked out of the front door. Damn. the number of the telephone from it, man, it's open!" which I am spraking, and who is the

another question.

"Can you tell me when this instru- | lah. ment was last used? . . . When? . . . Thank you!"

The inspector hung up the receiver. "The subscriber's name," he told them dryly, is Brown. The number is not entered in the book, by re-

quest. The telephone was used an. hour ago from a call office and connection was established. That is to the front door. He must have come say, that someone spoke from this out through that. There's been a telephone " Then if your man have maintained their search properly, that someone,

house at the present moment." "Without a doubt," the inspector

"I am going to search the front into it and they made off at once." room on the first floor Lefore we do

anything eise," said Quest. "I think that if you wait here I may be able to show you something directly."

Quest ascended the stairs and entered a wholly unfurnished room on the left-hand side. He scoked for a minute contemplatively at a large but rather shallow supboard, the door of which stood open, and tapped lightly with his forefinger upon the back part of it. Then he withdrew a few feet and, drawing out his revolver, deliberately fired into the floor, a few inches inside. There was a halfstifled cry. The false back suddenly swung open and a man rushed out. Quest's revolver covered him, but there was no necessity for its use. Craig, smothered with dust, his face white as a piece of marble, even his jaw shaking with fear, was wholly unarmed life seemed in fact, incap-

"Walk out of the room," Quest ordered, "in front of me-so! Now turn to the right and go down the stairs."

They all gave a little cry as they saw him appear, a trembling, pitiful creature, glancing around like a trapped animal. He commenced to descend the stairs, holding tightly oice. to the banisters. Quest remained on "Say, kid," she exclaimed to Le the landing above, his revolver in his

hand. French waited in the hall below, also armed Laura gripped Le-

nora's arm in excitement. They've got him now!" she ex-

claimed. "Got him, sure!" On the fourth or fifth stair Craig hesitated. He suddenly saw the professor standing below. He gripped the banisters with one hand. The other he flung out in a threatening

"You've given me away to these bloodhounds!" he cried-"you, for whom I have totled and slaved, whom-I have followed all over the world, whom I have served faithfully with the last breath of my body and the last drop of blood in my veins! You have brought them here-tracked medown! You!"

The professor shook his head sorrowfully

"Craig." he said. "you have been the best servant man ever had. If you are innocent of these crimes you can clear yourself. If you are guilty a dog's death is none too good for

Craig shemed to away for a moment upon his feet. Only Lenera, from the hall, saw that he was fitting his right flot into what seemed to be a leather loop hanging from the banisters. Then a wild shout of surprise broke from the lips of all of them, followed by a moment of suspenied wonder. The whole staircase suddenly began to revolve. Crais, clinging to the bantsters, disappeared. In a moment, or two there was a fresh click. Another set w" stairs, identical to the first, had taken their place.

"The cellar!" Quest shouted, as he rushed down the stairs. "Quick!"

They wrenched open the wooden door and hurried down the dark steps into the gloomy, unlit cellar. The place was crowded with packing cases and two large wine barrels stood in the corner. At the farther end was a door. Quest rushed for it and stood guard. A moment later, however, he called to Laura and pressed his revolver into her hand.

"Stand there," he ordered. "Shoot him if he tries to run out. I'll search in the packing cases. He might be-

The professor, out of breath, was leaning against one of the pillars, his arm passed around it for support. Lenora, with Quest and French. searched hastly amongst the packing cases. Suddenly there was a loud crack, the sound of falling masonry, followed by a scream from Laura. French, with a roar of anger, rushed toward her. She was lying on her side, already half covered by falling bricks and masonry. He dragged her away, just in time. "My God, she's fainted!" he ex-

claimed.

"I haven't," Laura faltered, trying to open her eyes, "and I'm not going to, but I think my arm's broken, and my side hurts." "The fellow's not down here, any-

way." Quest declared. "Let's help her upstairs and get her out of this

They supported her up the steps and found a chair for her in the hall. The inspector swung open the telephone cupboard and called for an ambulance. Then Quest, who had been examining the staircase, suddenly gave a little exclamation.

"He's done us!" he cried. "Look here. French, this is the original stair-There's the leather loop. I know it because there was a crack on the fourth stair. When we rushed down the cellar after him, he swung "Inspector French speaking," he the thing round again and simply

They hurried outside. French blew his whistle. One of the plain-clothes He listened to the reply and asked men came running up from the avenue. He was looking a little sheep-

"What's wrong?" French demand-

"He's gone off," was the unwilling reply. "I guess that chap's given us: the slip, "Speak up," French insisted.

The only place," the man went on, "we hadn't our eyes slued on was motortruck with one or two queerlooking chaps in it at the corner of the avenue there for the last ten min-Quest said slowly, 'must be in the utes. I'd just made up my mind to stroll round and see what it was up to when Jim, who was on the other side; shouted out. A man jumped up

> The inspector's rubicund countenance was white with fury. His head kept turning in the direction of Laura to whom the professor was busy rendering first aid

> "If I never take another job on as long as I live," he declared, "I'll have that fellow before I'm through!"

CHAPTER XVII.

The professor roused himself from what had apparently been a very gloomy reverie.

"Well," he announced, "I must go home. It has been very kind of you, Mr. Quest, to keep me here for so

Quest glanced at the clock. "Don't hurry, Mr. Ashleigh," he said. "We may get some news at any moment. French has a dozen men out on the search and he has promised to ring me up immediately he

bears anything." The professor sighed.

"A man," he declared, "who for twenty years can deceive his master as utterly and completely as Craig has done me, who is capable of such diabolical outrages, and who, when capture stares him in the face, is capable of an escape such as he made today, is outside the laws of probability. Personally. I do not believe



replied promptly. "You've stretched your ten minutes out some, Mr.

The inspector maneuvered to let the others pass on, and descended the stairs by Laura's side.

"Couldn't belp it," he confided, able of any form of resistance, lowering his tone a little. "Had some "Walk out of the room," Qu information in about that house I couldn't quite size up. You're looking well this morning, Miss Laura." "Say, who are you guying!" she re-

"I mean it." the inspector persisted. "That hat seems to suit you." Laura laughed at the top of her